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Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 22 May 1992, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. SHIHABI (Saudi Arabia)

- Admission of new Members to the United Nations [20] (continued)
  (a) Republic of Slovenia: draft resolution
  (b) Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina: draft resolution
  (c) Republic of Croatia: draft resolution

- Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments (continued)

  (h) Appointment of the members of the Consultative Committee of the United Nations Development Fund for Women [18 (h)]

- Special economic and disaster relief assistance: draft resolution [84] (continued)

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- Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador: report of the Fifth Committee [139]

- Financing of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia: report of the Fifth Committee [148] (continued)

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 20 (continued)

ADMISSION OF NEW MEMBERS TO THE UNITED NATIONS

(a) REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA: DRAFT RESOLUTION (A/46/L.71)

(b) REPUBLIC OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA: DRAFT RESOLUTION (A/46/L.73)

(c) REPUBLIC OF CROATIA: DRAFT RESOLUTION (A/46/L.74)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I should like the General Assembly to consider the positive recommendations by the Security Council on the applications for admission to membership in the United Nations of the Republic of Slovenia, the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Croatia.

The Assembly is considering their applications for admission forthwith in order to give the States recommended by the Security Council for membership in our Organization the opportunity, if the General Assembly acts favourably on their requests, to participate immediately in the work of the United Nations.

If there is no objection, we shall proceed accordingly.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I wish to inform members that I intend to suspend the meeting for 20 minutes immediately after the customary statements so that the flag-raising ceremony can be held during the suspension. The meeting will then resume to dispose of other matters.

(The President)

The Security Council has recommended the admission of the Republic of Slovenia in document A/46/920, the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina in document A/46/922 and the Republic of Croatia in document A/46/919. The draft resolutions concerning the admission of these new Members are contained in documents A/46/L.71, A.46/L.73 and A/46/L.74.

In fairness to all Members, I wish to consult the Assembly before we proceed to take a decision on the three draft resolutions before us. I should like to quote from rule 78 of the rules of procedure in regard to proposals before the Assembly:

"As a general rule, no proposal shall be discussed or put to the vote at any meeting of the General Assembly unless copies of it have been circulated to all delegations not later than the day preceding the meeting."

In view of the desire of the Members to dispose of this item expeditiously, I should like to seek the Assembly's concurrence with the request that we proceed to take a decision on the draft resolutions contained in documents A/46/L.71, A/46/L.73 and A/46/L.74, even though they were distributed only this morning.

If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Assembly agrees to this proposal.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): In connection with draft resolution A/46/L.71 on the admission to membership in the United Nations of the Republic of Slovenia, in addition to the countries listed in that document, the following countries have become sponsors: Lebanon, Maldives, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, the Netherlands, the Philippines, Samoa, Tunisia and the United Arab Emirates.

(The President)

In connection with draft resolution A/46/L.73 on the admission to membership in the United Nations of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in addition to the countries listed in that document, the following countries have become sponsors: Estonia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, the Netherlands, the Philippines and Samoa.

In connection with draft resolution A/46/L.74 on the admission to membership in the United Nations of the Republic of Croatia, in addition to the countries listed in that document, the following countries have become sponsors: Estonia, Lebanon, Maldives, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, the Netherlands, the Philippines, Samoa, Tunisia and the United Arab Emirates.

We shall consider first draft resolution A/46/L.71 on the admission of the Republic of Slovenia to membership in the United Nations.

May I take it that the General Assembly accepts the recommendation of the Security Council and adopts draft resolution A/46/L.71 by acclamation?

Draft resolution A/46/L.71 was adopted (resolution 46/236).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I therefore declare the Republic of Slovenia admitted to membership in the United Nations.

I request the Chief of Protocol to escort the delegation of the Republic of Slovenia to its place in the General Assembly Hall.

The delegation of the Republic of Slovenia was escorted to its place in the General Assembly Hall.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): We shall now consider draft resolution A/46/L.73 on the admission of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina to membership in the United Nations.

(The President)

May I take it that the General Assembly accepts the recommendation of the Security Council and adopts draft resolution A/46/L.73 by acclamation?

Draft resolution A/46/L.73 was adopted (resolution 46/237).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I therefore declare the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina admitted to membership in the United Nations.

I request the Chief of Protocol to escort the delegation of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina to its place in the General Assembly Hall.

The delegation of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina was escorted to its place in the General Assembly Hall.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): Next we shall consider draft resolution A/46/L.74 on the admission of the Republic of Croatia to membership in the United Nations.

May I take it that the General Assembly accepts the recommendation of the Security Council and adopts draft resolution A/46/L.74 by acclamation?

Draft resolution A/46/L.74 was adopted (resolution 46/238).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I therefore declare the Republic of Croatia admitted to membership in the United Nations.

I request the Chief of Protocol to escort the delegation of the Republic of Croatia to its place in the General Assembly Hall.

The delegation of the Republic of Croatia was escorted to its place in the General Assembly Hall.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): It is my pleasure on this historic occasion to welcome, on behalf of the United Nations, the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Slovenia as full Members of the United Nations. Their membership will without any doubt enhance the universality of the world Organization.

I congratulate them and I congratulate the United Nations on their admission. I wish the Governments and peoples of these States peace, prosperity, happiness, success and a quick end to the difficult and tragic circumstances they are currently passing through, which I am confident they are capable of overcoming. I wish to assure them of the full support of the United Nations as they take their rightful place in the international community as free, independent, sovereign and peace-loving States.

The admission of these three States today is at the same time an affirmation by the international community of its commitment to safeguarding the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of each of these new Member States on the basis of the principles of the United Nations Charter. This is clear: any aggression against the territory of any one or more of these countries - Bosnia is currently a case in point - will now be an aggression against a sovereign Member State of the United Nations which the United Nations is committed to rectifying until international peace and security are restored in accordance with the Charter.

I wish to sound a note of caution to those involved in violations of the United Nations Charter of the serious consequences arising from the continuation of those violations, and urge all parties to cooperate fully with the Secretary-General and with the United Nations and other international peace efforts to bring about an immediate end to their hostilities, withdraw from all occupied territories, and achieve a just and lasting settlement that

(The President)

will establish a firm foundation for the security and stability of the region and contribute to the peace of the world.

I now call on the representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Ambassador Elhouderi, who will speak on behalf of the Group of African States.

Mr. ELHOUDERI (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) (interpretation from Arabic): On behalf of the African Group, I have the honour to extend warm and sincere congratulations to the peoples and Governments of Slovenia, Croatia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina on their admission to the United Nations today.

Last March we celebrated the admission of nine new Members to the United Nations, and today we are celebrating the admission of a further three new Members. This demonstrates the increasing universality of the United Nations and the desire of its States Members to welcome all those who adhere to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

Slovenia, Croatia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina are joining the United Nations at an important juncture. The end of the cold war and of the confrontation between East and West has led to a new situation in which the United Nations can focus increasingly on matters of international concern.

The three countries that are today enthusiastically joining the United Nations will help strengthen the Organization's role as an instrument for peace and stability and for economic and social development, and as an important element in facing international challenges. We are certain that the role of these new countries in these fields will be even more positive, particularly if they all adhere to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

(Mr. Elhouderi, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

On this occasion we call upon the parties to the disputes in the region to which these three countries belong to respect the choices of peoples and to refrain from the use of force in settling differences and disputes. We call upon them to settle their disputes by peaceful means and to adhere to the Charter of the United Nations in their relations.

Now more than ever before, the United Nations is able to play a firm, decisive role in international relations. The measures taken to restructure the United Nations and simplify its procedures have been a constructive step towards enabling the United Nations to become increasingly effective, more responsive to the needs of the Members of the Organization, and better able to face up to important challenges such as the deterioration of the environment, indebtedness and the worsening terms of trade, particularly for the developing countries.

The African Group, on behalf of which I have the honour to address the Assembly now, is ready to play a constructive role in the quest for solutions to these problems, solutions that will lead to a more stable and secure world.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I call on Mr. Mohammed Abdullah Salim Al-Sameen of the Sultanate of Oman, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Asian States.

Mr. Al-SAMEEN (Oman) (interpretation from Arabic): On behalf of my country, the Sultanate of Oman, and on behalf of the Asian Group of States, over which my country has the honour of presiding this month, I am pleased to welcome the new States Members and to congratulate their Governments and peoples. I refer to the Republic of Slovenia, the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina. We hope that their admission to the United Nations will contribute to the strengthening of the role of the Organization in the realm of international peace and security, thus helping affirm the spirit of the Charter and the principles of international law. Indeed, States Members are called upon to respect the sovereignty of States and strengthen the pillars of international law, good-neighbourliness and the peaceful settlement of disputes.

We are happy to see that the admission of these new Republics is taking place at the same time as the strengthening of the effectiveness of the role of this international Organization, in spreading peace and prosperity for the well being of the whole of mankind. These admissions will also serve to strengthen the membership of the United Nations and make the Organization more universal.

The Asian Group once again welcomes the admission of these new Republics to the United Nations and wishes them every success in their search for peace and stability. We in the Asian Group are prepared to support these States in their aspirations to greater prosperity and happiness.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I call on Mr. Valeriu Florean, the Ambassador of Romania, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Eastern European States.

Mr. FLOREAN (Romania): In my capacity as current Chairman of the Group of Eastern European States, I have the honour, on behalf of the countries of the Group, to express our best wishes to the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, to the Republic of Croatia and to the Republic of Slovenia upon their admission to the United Nations.

The accession of these three countries to membership in the United Nations and the presence among us today of their representatives are important events and new evidence of the universality of the United Nations. In fact, the considerable growth of the number of Member States during this session of the General Assembly brings us closer than ever to the full realization of the universality of our Organization.

It is a privilege for me to congratulate our new Members. We take note with satisfaction of their solemn commitment to uphold the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, which include the principles relating to the peaceful settlement of disputes and the non-use of force, and universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all.

We are confident that Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Slovenia will contribute fully and effectively in all fields of activities of the United Nations. We bid them welcome and express the sincere hope that they will prevail over the difficulties confronting them and that they will implement their programmes in the areas of security, the rule of law and in the building of democratic societies. We look forward to cooperating with them in our joint endeavours in the years to come.

In this respect, we should like to recall the responsibility of all Member States to strengthen the role and authority of the United Nations as the guardian of international peace and security, as an instrument for economic and social development, as a vehicle for respect for human rights and

(Mr. Florean, Romania)

fundamental freedoms and as a unique forum for solving the global issues of today.

We take this opportunity to wish the three new Members of the United Nations and their representatives to the world Organization full success in our common efforts to ensure peace, justice and prosperity for all peoples of the world. We pledge them our support and our sincere desire to develop with them excellent relationships in the General Assembly and throughout the United Nations system.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I call on the representative of Saint Kitts and Nevis, Mr. Raymond Taylor, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

Mr. TAYLOR (Saint Kitts and Nevis): On behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean Group, I join in all sincerity with those who preceded me in congratulating and welcoming to this body the Republic of Slovenia, the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Croatia.

The vibrancy of the Organization is reflected in the plethora of new Members. We warmly welcome the three Members with their rich history and culture. We are convinced that they will live up to the Charter of the United Nations. I wish to assure the Governments and peoples of these new Members that the Latin American and Caribbean Group will extend to them its most active support and cooperation.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I call upon Mr. Graf Zu Rantzau, representative of Germany, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Western European and other States.

Mr. GRAF ZU RANTZAU (Germany): On behalf of the Group of Western European and other States I have the honour of welcoming the three new Members - the Republic of Slovenia, the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina - to the United Nations family. This is continuing evidence of the universality of the Organization and of our sincere desire to welcome all those who are prepared to adhere to the purposes and principles laid down in its Charter. We welcome the new Members' solemn commitment to fulfil the obligations in the Charter, and we are confident that they will make a significant contribution to the work of the United Nations.

The creation of the States of Slovenia, Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina is firmly based on the principles of self-determination, independence, democracy and protection of the rights of minorities. In congratulating the new Members on their admission to the United Nations we cannot fail to note the deeply worrying situation in two of those States, characterized by violence, grave violations of human rights and human suffering. We express our hope that the United Nations, together with the European Community and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, will not tire in their efforts to restore peace and stability to the region in the near future. We urge all parties to contribute to a peaceful political settlement by negotiations.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I now call upon the Permanent Representative of the United States of America, who will make a statement on behalf of the host country.

Mr. PERKINS (United States of America): In my first statement before this body, please allow me to express my sincere respects to you, Mr. President, and to the Secretary-General, and my appreciation for your leadership.

(Mr. Perkins, United States)

As the host country of the United Nations, the United States is pleased to join the members of the General Assembly in welcoming Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Slovenia to membership in the United Nations Organization.

In the past half decade we have seen remarkable change and progress in most of Europe. The people of Central and Eastern Europe and the former USSR rejected authoritarianism and chose the course of democracy and freedom. These revolutions were for the most part remarkably peaceful, and we have been pleased to join with the newly democratic States of the region to cooperate on the many issues that concern all.

Unfortunately, events in the former Yugoslav Federation did not follow a peaceful course. The international community has made clear its view that the Belgrade authorities bear overwhelming responsibilities for the terrible events that have occurred, and many countries, including the United States, have joined together to take measures to deal with that régime.

The changes that have taken place in Yugoslavia have fundamentally altered the previous structures. If Serbia and Montenegro desire to sit in the United Nations, they should be required to apply for membership and be held to the same standards as all other applicants. Specifically, they must prove to the Members of the United Nations that the so-called Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is a peace-loving State.

Out of this tragedy have come the three new European States being admitted today to the United Nations: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Slovenia. Each emerged through a baptism of fire. Bosnia and Croatia continue to face the challenge of defending their sovereignty and borders against attempts to settle political disputes by force. Slovenia is now at

(Mr. Perkins, United States)

peace but is not immune from the consequences of the continuing conflict. Despite these difficult circumstances, all three nations have joined the world community as independent States with the demonstrated support of a majority of their peoples and with Governments elected democratically and freely by their citizens.

For Bosnia and Herzegovina, the challenge of survival is immediate. For all three of these States, however, many important challenges lie ahead. Most important among these is to live up to the ideals and principles of the United Nations Charter, the Helsinki Final Act and other important international commitments, particularly in the area of human rights. We wish the three new Members of the United Nations well as they work to build free and tolerant societies.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I now call upon the Permanent Representative of Turkey, Mr. Mustafa Aksin, who will make a statement on behalf of the group of countries members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

Mr. AKSIN (Turkey): On behalf of the 46 countries members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference I have the honour to welcome the Republics of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Slovenia as they join our great universal Organization as Members. This occasion, which should be one of joy and celebration, is marred by the tragic events that have accompanied the exercise of self-determination by the peoples of these new States. The countries of the Islamic Group are especially concerned about the violence being inflicted on Bosnia and Herzegovina and the terrible human suffering this is bringing about.

We note and welcome the solemn pledge given by these three States to respect the Charter of the United Nations and to resolve all disputes

(Mr. Aksin, Turkey)

peacefully, without recourse to force. We are convinced that this pledge, combined with the obligation of all States to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the new Members, together with full respect for human and minority rights, are the essential elements for reestablishing peace and stability in the region. We urge all the parties to exert their efforts to bring an early end to the violence and start the process of reconciliation and healing. The role of the United Nations in this process is of crucial importance, and the Organization must not fail to carry out its responsibility of upholding the new world order.

We congratulate the new Members and look forward to working closely with them to achieve the purposes and principles of the Charter.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I call on the representative of Portugal, Mr. Fernando Jose Reino, who will speak on behalf of the States members of the European Community.

Mr. REINO (Portugal): I have the honour of speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States.

The Twelve congratulate Slovenia, Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina on their admission to the United Nations, and warmly welcome those three new countries into our Organization. We are pleased to have co-sponsored the draft resolutions put before the Assembly in this connection. We express our satisfaction at this development, to which, from the very beginning and particularly through our declaration of 16 December 1991, the Twelve have made a substantial contribution.

At this historic moment it is important to remind ourselves of the obligations under the Charter of the United Nations that all States undertake when they become Members. Among those obligations are respect for the principle of non-recourse to force and the principle that international disputes should be settled by peaceful means, as well as the commitment to exercise tolerance and to live in peace with one another in a spirit of good-neighbourliness.

Those obligations are especially relevant in respect of the current situation in two of the States which have joined our Organization today, given the present conflicts in both Croatia and Bosnia, and the efforts by the United Nations, the European Community and the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe to help resolve them. The Twelve further draw attention, particularly in the case of Bosnia and Herzegovina, to the Charter principle, binding on all States, of respect for the territorial integrity and political independence of all States.

(Mr. Reino, Portugal)

All three new Member States, along with other interested parties, should cooperate fully with the European Community's Conference on Yugoslavia, as called for by the Security Council, most recently in its resolution 752 (1992).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I call on the representative of Poland, Mr. Robert Mroziewicz, who will speak on behalf of Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland.

Mr. MROZIEWICZ (Poland): It is my privilege on behalf of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, the Republic of Hungary and the Republic of Poland warmly to congratulate the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Slovenia on the occasion of their admission to the United Nations. We note that this act follows the proclamation by those three States of their independence, which has already been recognized by an ever-growing number of countries in all parts of the world.

The independence of those three States is the result of the exercise, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, of the right of their peoples to self-determination. The three new States Members of the United Nations have fulfilled the requirements for membership in our Organization, and this has been reaffirmed by the unanimous decision the General Assembly took just a few minutes ago.

With that decision, and in the light of the dramatic situation prevailing in that part of the world, the United Nations has again demonstrated its capacity, inter alia, to live up to its own moral commitments. The decision by the General Assembly constitutes at the same time a further important step towards the realization of the principle of universality.

(Mr. Mroziewicz, Poland)

We are confident that the three new States Members of our Organization will be able and willing to fulfil the rights and carry out the obligations set forth in the Charter of the United Nations. In that connection we note that full respect for the principles of inter-State relations, in particular the principles of the peaceful settlement of disputes and of refraining from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, has a singular relevance for that region of the world.

On this historic day for the peoples of Slovenia, Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, I welcome, on behalf of Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland, the decision of the General Assembly enabling those States to become valued members of the United Nations community. We look forward to cooperating with them closely at the United Nations and all other international organizations in the pursuit of the purposes and the implementation of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I call on the representative of the United Arab Emirates, Mr. Mohammed Samhan, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Arab States.

Mr. SAMHAN (United Arab Emirates) (interpretation from Arabic): Allow me on behalf of the Group of Arab States Members of the United Nations, of which I am honoured to serve as Chairman for this month, to express our sincere and warm congratulations to the Republic of Slovenia, the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Croatia on their admission to membership in the United Nations.

(Mr. Samhan, United Arab Emirates)

We in the Arab Group are fully convinced that those three States will play an effective and important role in the maintenance of peace and security, and will fulfil the letter and the spirit of their obligations under the Charter of the United Nations. The Group of Arab States is ready to cooperate with the new Members in all fields.

On this occasion, we express our hope that the United Nations, and in particular the Security Council, will play an important and decisive role in dealing with the tragedy inflicted upon the friendly people of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Those violations run completely counter to the noble objectives enshrined in the United Nations Charter. We are fully confident that, in view of the recent international changes, which we support, the international community will work towards a peaceful solution that will preserve the sovereignty of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): The Assembly will now hear an address by the President of the Republic of Slovenia.

Mr. Milan Kucan, President of the Republic of Slovenia, was escorted to the rostrum.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): On behalf of the General Assembly, I have the honour to welcome to the United Nations the President of the Republic of Slovenia, Mr. Milan Kucan, and to invite him to address the Assembly.

President KUCAN (spoke in Slovenian; English text furnished by the delegation): On behalf of the Republic of Slovenia, I thank the General Assembly for admitting us to full membership of this, the largest and most important international organization of the modern world.

As a Member of the United Nations, Slovenia will act within the life of the international community, in the future as in the past, in accordance with the letter and the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations and other instruments that have been adopted during the long and useful development of the extensive United Nations system.

In becoming a Member of the United Nations, the Slovene nation has fulfilled its historical aspiration to join the international community. On its own initiative and responsibility, and uniting its own creative spirit with that of the other Members of the United Nations, the Slovene people is thus continuing the mission it began when it was included in the United Nations in 1945, with its full consent, within and as a constituent part of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. We are now contributing to the Organization's honourable endeavours to establish a better, happier and more peaceful world order.

Slovenia is the country of a small nation in Central Europe, where the Slovene nation has lived for over 1,000 years. Its language and rich culture

(President Kucan)

have long given Slovenia the character of a modern and developed nation. Prior to its international recognition on 15 January this year, Slovenia, by its own volition, was economically and politically a Republic of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. A combination of circumstances in an unfriendly historical environment is the reason why it is only in the late twentieth century that we are joining the United Nations as an independent country open to cooperation and integration on an equal footing.

After the fall of the Austro-Hungarian Empire at the end of the First World War, given the historical circumstances prevailing at the time, Slovenia joined other south Slavic nations in a common State, the Kingdom of Yugoslavia. This association provided neither Slovenians nor other nations with the fulfilment of their aspirations to a life on an equal footing and preservation of their own identity. Hence, that unstable country soon collapsed in the face of the attack of the fascist Powers in 1941. The resistance movement in Slovenia, which grew into a Slovenian army during the course of the Second World War and made possible the establishment of its own sovereign State, was a component of the allied anti-fascist forces. It eventually liberated its own territory by itself. After the Second World War, Slovenia, as a constituent part of the new Federative Yugoslavia, a State of nations holding equal rights, became a founding Member of the United Nations precisely because of its role in the anti-fascist coalition.

However, the new Yugoslavia was also incapable of satisfying the historical aspirations of the nations of which it was composed. It was unable to respond to the challenges of the new historical circumstances that have arisen in Europe in recent years, especially following the razing of the Berlin Wall. The former Yugoslavia, despite the obstinate process of national emancipation, democratization at home and throughout the world, became an even

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greater factor of instability in that part of Europe. The dissolution of Yugoslavia over a series of unresolved internal questions and controveries, with its great backwardness in terms of the progress of civilization and the world's aspirations and its inability to follow the emancipation process of Eastern Europe - which is comparable in some senses to the decolonization process after the Second World War - was historically inevitable.

Slovenia was the first country in that part of the world to have understood that global and all-round social and economic reforms were necessary for continued survival. It has striven to implement these without major upheavals. Unfortunately, the rigid, bureaucratic system of the former Yugoslavia, especially of its armed forces, responded to these aspirations with force and the use of arms, which Slovenia was compelled to resist.

Slovenia ascertained by democratic plebiscite the will of its people that, on the basis of the permanent and inalienable right to national self-determination enshrined in the instruments of the United Nations, and in accordance with the provisions of international law, it should become an independent and sovereign State. With its declaration of independence on 25 June 1991, the Slovenian Parliament decided that the Republic of Slovenia would consistently act within the international community on the basis of the Charter of the United Nations, and that it would respect all international agreements and conventions to which it was a party and which it had ratified as a Republic of the former Yugoslavia.

The independence of Slovenia is not directed against anyone. It has always recognized and will continue to recognize that other nations as well have the same right. Slovenia wishes to have and maintain good and friendly relations with its neighbours and other countries, and to be creatively

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involved in the integration processes of the modern world. Slovenia wishes to establish this first by joining the extensive United Nations system and later by joining other institutions of international association.

Modern history has seen many ways of securing the economic interests, culture and dignity of a nation. The Slovene nation has chosen, at this juncture of its existence, the path of establishing its own national State. That path is not the only or even the most important one in modern times. Today, multinational communities are being established - a process that will become even more frequent in the future. Such communities, however, will only be possible with the highest respect for democracy and on condition that the nation itself admninisters its own destiny and chooses by consensus a common destiny with others.

Slovenia did not declare independence in order to become an island in the middle of the world - which is growing ever more integrated - but to ensure an appropriate role and just treatment in the processes of integration in which we join. In today's world, the process of establishing national States runs parallel to the association of such States. The essential task of the international community is to use scientific and political creativity to find formulas that will ensure respect for individuality and beneficial coexistence. Slovenia is prepared, at this very moment when the peoples on the territory of the former Yugoslavia are affected by crisis and war, to contribute to the assertion and respect of the national diversities and coexistence of all nations.

Slovenia will remain consistently committed to the non-violent resolution of conflicts in the world. It has already become a member of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe and is attempting through the Brussels

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Conference to contribute to the best of its abilities to the resolution of the economic crisis and to halting the tragic and senseless war raging in parts of the former Yugoslavia.

Slovenia will continue in the future to put forward initiatives and actively contribute to the peaceful political resolution of the Yugoslavian crisis and to achieving an agreed and just settlement of questions of the State succession of the former Yugoslavia. This cannot be unilaterally taken over by any of the Republics of the former Federative State. Slovenia will continue to participate in resolving the great humanitarian problems that have arisen as result of the war in Croatia and in Bosnia and Herzegovina. We now provide shelter to tens of thousands of refugees from these two neighbouring States and will, in cooperation with the international community, try to ease their suffering and to bring an end to the war and violence, thus enabling them to return to their homes as soon as possible.

(President Kucan)

Slovenia will do everything in its power to end the senseless and brutal war in its neighbourhood and will be prepared, also after the war is over, to cooperate with neighbouring countries in dealing with the consequences of the war and ensuring the comfort and prosperity of the people of these unhappy regions.

Mr. President, I wish you further success in your guidance of the work of the General Assembly, and I wish all Member States prosperity in their development in a peaceful world, as well as fruitful international cooperation.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): On behalf of the General Assembly, I wish to thank the President of the Republic of Slovenia for the statement he has just made.

Mr. Milan Kucan, President of the Republic of Slovenia, was escorted from the rostrum.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I now have the pleasure of inviting the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mr. Haris Silajdzic, to address the Assembly.

Mr. SILAJDZIC (Bosnia and Herzegovina): The late Dag Hammarskjöld, who led this august Organization so valiantly, said, "the longest journey is the journey inwards of him who has chosen his destiny".

The international community has recognized our independence, and today we are honoured that the United Nations has accepted us into membership.

While we are free of oppression, we are not free of aggression. We have embarked on the longest journey of our lives. A human tragedy of catastrophic proportions threatens to erupt in my country if urgent measures are not taken immediately to stem the reign of terror in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Considering

(Mr. Silajdzic, Bosnia and Herzegovina)

the calamitous events in my country, I urge the Security Council to invoke Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations and to call upon the party concerned to end this senseless violation of basic human rights.

There is an immediate humanitarian need for food and medicine. This crisis must be met by the civilized world if the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina are to survive.

The legitimate Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina has observed all the standards set for it by the United Nations, the European Community, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, and other nations of the world. We have lived by the rules of a civilized world. We need, and have received, strong moral support from the international community. The United Nations relief agencies have been dedicated and determined to help.

Yet the crisis continues. Stronger action is needed - and it is needed immediately, before more lives are lost and misery grinds our nation down to dust. We call on this body to come to our aid in the hour of our greatest need. If the aggression in Bosnia and Herzegovina is not stopped now, peace and security in the entire region will be undermined.

Over the 1,000 years of its history as a political entity, Bosnia and Herzegovina has taken one form or another. In the Middle Ages we were a strong kingdom. Later we took the form of a province or corpus separatum, or of a sovereign State within the Yugoslav federation. But always we have been a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic, multi-religious society. We had hoped this history had prepared us well for the age of ever-increasing interdependence. Instead, we have been punished by a nationalism whose aggressiveness is shocking the world.

(Mr. Silajdzic, Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Bosnia is now one big, bleeding wound. These are trying times. Many a young eye will see light no more. Many an old face will endlessly grieve. Our cultural heritage, which belongs to the world, faces indiscriminate destruction in a wave of cultural genocide. Yet the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina must look beyond this tragedy - to the future, to building bridges of tolerance, for which Bosnians have always had a special talent.

We must remember that this is not a war between nations. No nation could approve of massacre, deportation, or starvation of another nation. It is a political fact of life that Governments do not always reflect the will of the people; nor are the people universally responsible for the acts of those who control a regime.

The bridges of which I speak must be built in this august and honourable home - a home of nations united in their quest for genuine understanding and their commitment to living together in a civilized world. The peoples of Bosnia and Herzegovina will always be in the vanguard of this heroic endeavour.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I thank the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina for the statement he has just made.

The Assembly will now hear an address by the President of the Republic of Croatia.

Mr. Franjo Tudjman, President of the Republic of Croatia, was escorted to the rostrum.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): On behalf of the General Assembly, I have the honour to welcome to the United Nations the President of the Republic of Croatia, Mr. Franjo Tudjman, and to invite him to address the Assembly.

President TUDJMAN (Croatia): In the history of a nation, no moment can be as important as the recognition of its independence and sovereignty and its admission to a world community of equal and independent States such as the United Nations. Therefore, allow me to express, on behalf of the Croatian people and of the Republic of Croatia, my deepest gratitude to the United Nations for our admission: to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali; to the President of the Security Council, Mr. Peter Hohenfellner, and to the members of the Council, who unanimously recommended that the Republic of Croatia be admitted to membership in the United Nations; and, most particularly, to the President of the General Assembly at this forty-sixth session, Mr. Samir Shihabi, and to all the participants in this plenary meeting, whose decision has today honoured us and evidenced trust in us, which Croatia certainly deserves and which it will endeavour to justify in every respect. I wish also to express our deepest gratitude to the representatives of the regional groups that today have welcomed our admission to the United Nations.

(President Tudjman)

As of today Croatia has won international legitimacy. Its flag - sacred to every Croat who has been persecuted and exiled because of it - will henceforth freely and proudly wave in front of the United Nations building.

The Croatian nation is one of the oldest nations in present-day Europe. It prides itself on the written documents and records of its national and State identity and of its belonging to Western European civilization from the seventh century onwards - records in stone and on parchment, in literature and in the arts, and, most important of all, in its spiritual being. The Croatian people can be proud of its contribution to the spiritual and material heritage of mankind.

It is probably not by chance that a small part of our national heritage is also present here. The entrance leading to the Hall of the General Assembly of the United Nations is made of marble from the Croatian island of Brac. In my homeland this stone is a symbol of Croatian persistence. For many centuries the greatest Croatian sculptors have proved themselves with this stone in their works of art - sculptors including Antun Augustincic, whose figure of a horseman, the Monument to Peace, also stands in the garden of this very United Nations building.

From the tenth to twelfth centuries the Croats had their independent kingdom under national rulers. Historical vicissitudes and the critical geopolitical position of our country - on the divide of the civilizations of Western and Eastern Europe - brought about union with the Hungarian and Hapsburg crowns from the twelfth century to the year 1918. However, both in that union and in the subsequent Yugoslav multinational State, the Croatian people preserved its identity - as witnessed in particular by the glorious Dubrovnik Republic - while continuously aspiring to full independence and sovereignty.

(President Tudjman)

Now international circumstances finally permit the Croatian people, as well as many other small nations, to achieve the supreme goal coveted by every national entity from the moment it achieves in its development the stage of specific national and political-cultural awareness.

We live in a time in which scientific and technological development has placed almost unlimited means of creation and destruction into the hands of mankind. The integration of our civilization in culture, economy, engineering, transportation and information is proceeding on a scale which we have never seen before. At the same time, we witness a simultaneous process of national individualization.

Amidst the blending of these essentially opposed tendencies mankind strives to create a united international community, an international order made up of independent sovereign States, which has emerged on the basis of generally accepted principles on the right of nations to self-determination and freedom.

However, the Croatian people has achieved its independence and sovereignty not only within the scope of such general trends but also in the particularly serious circumstances underlying the collapse of the totalitarian socialist system in Europe and the disintegration of the multinational Yugoslav State.

Having established a democratic order and proclaimed independence by the will of its citizens expressed in a plebiscite, Croatia has had to endure major sacrifices in order to preserve its sovereignty. Croatia was faced with a war imposed by the Yugoslav communist army and Serbian imperialism, a war for the restoration of communism and the conquest of Croatian territories.

(President Tudjman)

In this war, the Croatian people faced barehanded the technically superior military might of the former Yugoslav Army. We have successfully defended our freedom and democracy and won international recognition on Croatia's road to full membership in the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) and the United Nations. However, this war has not yet come to an end, inasmuch as the aggressors have also extended it to neighbouring Bosnia and Herzegovina, in spite of the involvement of the European Community and the Security Council.

The consequences of this barbarous war, waged at the close of the twentieth century, are horrible. Thirty thousand people, mainly civilians, have been killed and wounded in Croatia; many villages and even whole towns have been fully destroyed; destruction has not spared hundreds of historical monuments, churches, industrial plants, hospitals and schools. The scale of the suffering of the civilian population in this aggressive war against Croatia is manifested in the fact that more than 600,000 persons, including helpless old people, women and children, in Croatia have been displaced or uprooted from their homes. Moreover, about a quarter of a million people have fled to Croatia from Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The provision of relief to displaced persons and refugees surpasses the capabilities of Croatia, exhausted as it is by war. The fate of hundreds of thousands of imperilled people depends on the assistance of the international community.

Croatia appeals to the supreme bodies of the world Organization, to take, together with the European Community and the CSCE, more decisive and effective steps in order to put an immediate stop to the war in Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina and to establish peace and stable international order in that part of the world.

(President Tudjman)

Membership in the United Nations has crowned the international confirmation of the sovereignty of the Republic of Croatia. We are deeply aware of the responsibility assumed by such membership.

It is my privilege solemnly to declare on this occasion that the Republic of Croatia endorses in every respect the Charter of the United Nations and that Croatia will be faithful to the principles of the Charter and to the rule of international law, on the basis of which it has won its international recognition.

As a full Member of the United Nations, Croatia will henceforth enjoy the increased support of the world Organization in the efforts focused on the peaceful solution of the crisis in the area of former Yugoslavia, based on the principles embodied in the United Nations Charter, on the success of the United Nations peace-keeping operation, on the solution of the refugee problem, and on promoting economic development.

At this very moment the United Nations is implementing on Croatian soil one of the major peace-keeping operations in its history. Croatia will meet all its commitments under the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) Plan, but also expects all other sides to honour fully the provisions of the Plan. This in particular regards the unconditional and complete withdrawal of the former Yugoslav Army from Croatia, and the safe return of displaced persons to their homes.

(President Tudjman)

The Republic of Croatia adheres to the principles of international solidarity and responsibility, which entitle the international community to intercede in cases involving violations of the basic human and ethnic rights and threats to international peace and to the ecological stability of our planet.

Croatia has accepted the final documents of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe as well as the principles governing the work of the Brussels Peace Conference aimed at resolving the Yugoslav crisis and the settlement of relations among States emerging in the area of former Yugoslavia. All this clearly shows that the Republic of Croatia wants to be faithful to the principles of the Charter, to the principles of peace, justice and international cooperation, devoid of any discrimination. Croatia wants to be an effective factor within the contemporary international order, which is being built on the generally accepted ideas of anti-fascism and democracy.

During the Second World War the Croatian people also made a substantial contribution to the struggle against Nazi fascism, which jeopardized the democratic order of Europe and the world. Let me add with pride that I also personally took part, as a young man, in that war against fascism.

While still a part of the former State community, Croatia also significantly contributed to the striving for independence of the third-world countries and their economic development. This also strengthened the role of the United Nations in the cold-war period.

Finally, I should like to stress our firm determination to build the internationally recognized Republic of Croatia on principles of an open, free and democratic society. We want Croatia to be - in political and economic terms - a nation of law and order and a free home for all its citizens.

(President Tudjman)

Croatia wants to cooperate with all neighbouring countries and with the countries of Europe and the world. Croatia will support peace and stability within the international order and be a worthy Member of the United Nations.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): On behalf of the General Assembly, I wish to thank the President of the Republic of Croatia for the statement he has just made.

Mr. Franjo Tudjman, President of the Republic of Crotia, was escorted from the rostrum.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I should like to announce that the flags of the Republics of Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia will be raised at a ceremony that will take place in front of the delegates' entrance immediately after the suspension of this plenary meeting.

The meeting was suspended at 11.45 a.m. and resumed at 12.05 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 18 (continued)

APPOINTMENTS TO FILL VACANCIES IN SUBSIDIARY ORGANS AND OTHER APPOINTMENTS:

(h) APPOINTMENT OF THE MEMBERS OF THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT FUND FOR WOMEN (A/46/899)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I should like to draw the attention of the Assembly to a note by the Secretary-General (A/46/899) concerning the appointment of the members of the Consultative Committee of the United Nations Development Fund for Women.

His note contains the text of the letter that I addressed to him on 14 April 1992, informing him that, in accordance with the terms of resolution 39/125 of 14 December 1984, by which the Consultative Committee had been established, I had appointed at the 45th and 79th plenary meetings of the General Assembly, on 13 November and 20 December 1991, respectively, the Bahamas, Denmark, Indonesia and Uganda as members of the Consultative Committee. Regarding the appointment of a member from the Eastern European States, I further communicated to the Secretary-General that the Chairman of the Group of Eastern European States had informed me that the Group had endorsed the candidature of Poland for the position and that I was therefore appointing Poland as a member of the Consultative Committee.

May I take it that the General Assembly takes note of this appointment?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): We have thus concluded our consideration of sub-item (h) of agenda item 18

AGENDA ITEM 84 (continued)

SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE: DRAFT RESOLUTION (A/46/L.72)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): The Assembly will now consider a draft resolution (A/46/L.72) on emergency assistance to Nicaragua following the eruption of the Cerro Negro volcano.

I call on the representative of Nicaragua to introduce this draft resolution.

Mr. STADTHAGEN (Nicaragua) (interpretation from Spanish): I wish to thank the Assembly for the attention it is devoting today to the item on special economic and disaster relief assistance.

On 13 April last, my delegation issued a first appeal to the international community requesting the support necessary to help us deal with the emergency afflicting the northwest part of my country as a result of eruption of the Cerro Negro volcano.

Today we are submitting, in document A/46/L.72, a draft resolution entitled "Emergency assistance to Nicaragua following the eruption of the Cerro Negro volcano". This draft resolution enjoys the backing of its sponsors, which have been joined by Samoa, and constitutes additional support for the various timely manifestations of solidarity with us on the part of the international community at this difficult time for our people.

Since last April, the eruption of the Cerro Negro volcano has affected six cities and 15 rural communities in the Leon and Chinandega Departments - one of the most densely populated regions of our national territory. There have been sand- and ash-storms, causing serious damage to 4,500 families, with a total of 20,000 victims, who have sought temporary shelter in refugee camps. Apart from the human tragedy of these families, the damage is of tremendous economic importance because it has adversely affected the

(Mr. Stadthagen, Nicaragua)

reactivation of the productive sector in the afflicted zone, and because it has retarded agricultural recovery in the Chinandega and Leon Departments.

(Mr. Stadthagen, Nicaragua)

Moreover, very serious and costly damage has been done to the education, health and housing of the victims.

This natural disaster that has uprooted the urban and rural population of the affected areas has damaged the agricultural capacity of the land. This eruption poses an obstacle to the tremendous efforts we have been making to eliminate the consequences of war and to embark on the reconstruction and economic recovery of the country.

Under the preamble to the draft resolution we are submitting today, the General Assembly would express concern about the serious consequences of the eruption of the Cerro Negro volcano, and about the urgent need to restore normal life to the people. Under its two operative paragraphs the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to support Nicaragua's efforts to alleviate the situation in the affected areas and would invite all Member States, institutions, organizations and specialized agencies to continue their support at this stage for the duration of the emergency and of the rehabilitation process in Nicaragua.

My delegation expresses its appreciation and gratitude for the prompt assistance received from friendly countries and specialized agencies of the United Nations. We express our thanks, too, for the reception the General Assembly has given this draft resolution.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/46/L.72.

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt that draft resolution?

Draft resolution A/46/L.72 was adopted (resolution 46/239).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): We have concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 84.

AGENDA ITEMS 139 AND 148 (continued)

FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS OBSERVER MISSION IN EL SALVADOR: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/46/924)

FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS TRANSITIONAL AUTHORITY IN CAMBODIA: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (Part II) (A/46/879/Add.1)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I request the Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee, Mr. Mahmoud Barimani of the Islamic Republic of Iran, to introduce the reports of the Fifth Committee in one intervention.

Mr. BARIMANI (Islamic Republic of Iran), Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee: I have the honour today to present to the General Assembly two reports of the Fifth Committee on the two agenda items now before the Assembly. Document A/46/924 relates to agenda item 139: "Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL)". Document A/46/879/Add.1 relates to agenda items 146 and 148: "Financing of the United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC)" and "Financing of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC)".

The Fifth Committee considered, at its 64th to 65th meetings, on 20 and 21 May 1992, agenda items 139, "Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL)"; 146, "Financing of the United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC)"; and 148, "Financing of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC)".

At the 65th meeting, the Chairman of the Fifth Committee put before the Committee the texts of the two draft resolutions on, respectively, ONUSAL, and UNAMIC and UNTAC.

(Mr. Barimani, Rapporteur, Fifth Committee)

The draft resolutions follow a format similar to that of previous resolutions on the financing of United Nations peace-keeping operations. I shall therefore highlight only certain aspects that are germaine to this specific situation.

The Committee adopted, without a vote, draft resolution A/C.5/46/L.24, as orally amended, on ONUSAL. I should like to draw the Assembly's attention in particular to paragraph 4 of the draft resolution (A/46/924, para. 7). Under that paragraph, the General Assembly would decide to appropriate an amount of 39,000,000 United States dollars gross (37,000,000 dollars net), inclusive of the amount of 10,000,000 dollars authorized by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, under the terms of General Assembly 46/187 of 20 December 1991, for the operation of the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador for the period from 1 January to 31 October 1992.

Under paragraph 9 of the draft resolution, the Assembly would decide, in principle, that the accounts for the United Nations Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA) and the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL) should be merged.

In paragraph 7 of its report (A/46/924), the Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of this draft resolution.

The Fifth Committee also adopted without a vote draft resolution A/C.5/46/L.25, as orally amended, on UNTAC.

Under paragraph 3 of that draft resolution (A/46/879/Add.1, para. 6), the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to consolidate the special account for the Advance Mission into the special account for the Transitional Authority. Under paragraph 4, the General Assembly would decide to appropriate an amount of 606,000,000 United States dollars gross

(Mr. Barimani, Rapporteur, Fifth Committee)

(600,000,000 dollars net) for the operation of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia through 31 October 1992, in addition to the total amount of 233,576,200 dollars gross (233,171,300 dollars net) already appropriated for the Advance Mission and the Transitional Authority, in terms of General Assembly resolutions 46/198 A and 46/198 B and 46/222.

In paragraph 6 of its report (A/46/879/Add.1), the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of this draft resolution.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): If there is no proposal under rule 66 of the rules of procedure, I shall take it that the General Assembly decides not to discuss the reports of the Fifth Committee that are before the Assembly today.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): Statements will therefore be limited to explanations of vote.

The positions of delegations regarding the recommendations of the Fifth Committee have been made clear in the Committee and are reflected in the relevant official records.

May I remind members that under paragraph 7 of decision 34/401 the General Assembly agreed that

> "When the same draft resolution is considered in a Main Committee and in plenary meeting, a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once, that is, either in the Committee or in plenary meeting, unless that delegation's vote in plenary meeting is different from its vote in the Committee."

(The President)

May I also remind delegations that, again in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Before we begin to take action on the recommendations contained in the reports of the Fifth Committee, I should like to advise representatives that we shall proceed to take decisions in the same manner as in the Fifth Committee.

The Assembly will first consider the report (A/46/924) of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 139, entitled "Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador".

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution contained in paragraph 7 of that report.

The Fifth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 46/240).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): The Assembly has thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 139.

(The President)

The Assembly will now consider part II of the report of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 148, entitled "Financing of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia" (A/46/879/Add.1). The report also relates to agenda item 146, entitled "Financing of the United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia", inasmuch as with the establishment of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia, the United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia has been absorbed into the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia.

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report (A/46/879/Add.1).

The Fifth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 46/222 B).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I call on the representative of Japan, who wishes to explain his position.

Mr. SEZAKI (Japan): My delegation welcomes wholeheartedly the commencement of United Nations Transition Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) activities, since Japan, together with other Member States concerned, has consistently sought to achieve a comprehensive political settlement of the Cambodian conflict. We sincerely hope that UNTAC will be successful in restoring lasting peace to that war-torn country. Japan is committed to the implementation of the Paris Agreement, whose ultimate objective is the holding of free and fair elections organized and certified by the United Nations. We strongly support the Secretary-General's determination to hold those elections no later than May 1993, in accordance with Security Council resolution 745 (1992).

(Mr. Sezaki, Japan)

In order for UNTAC to succeed in meeting its challenge, which, in terms of scope and the projected costs, is unprecedented in the history of United Nations peace-keeping operations, it is essential that each Member State assume responsibility in honouring its assessment. According to the proposed estimates of the United Nations Secretariat, the total financial requirements of UNTAC, including those for repatriation and rehabilitation costs, are projected to be $2.3 billion. Member States are required to pay their assessed contributions in full and on time in accordance with the established scale of contributions for peace-keeping operations.

With respect to the activities to be covered by voluntary contributions, it is very much hoped that Member States will make early and substantial commitments according to their capabilities. I particularly emphasize the importance of the prior repatriation of Cambodian refugees and displaced persons, upon which the implementation and integrity of the electoral process is dependent.

I should also like to emphasize the importance of ensuring the smooth deployment of UNTAC at its initial phase since the entire UNTAC operation, including the demobilization of the four parties and the conduct of free and fair elections, will greatly depend on the outcome of this very start-up process.

In the light of these circumstances, Japan paid the full amount of its assessment in time to meet the initial requirement of UNTAC, which was set at $200 million by the General Assembly last February. It has disbursed a total of about $35 million as voluntary contributions to the programmes of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the World Food Programme (WFP) relating to both the initial and operational phases of the repatriation plan for refugees and displaced persons.

(Mr. Sezaki, Japan)

My delegation appreciated the prompt action of the Fifth Committee on the cost estimates of UNTAC submitted at this resumed session. Nevertheless, we trust that the Fifth Committee will undertake a thorough examination of the budget of UNTAC, as well as the first performance report on the budget, when additional estimates are submitted to the General Assembly.

My delegation supports the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ). We understand that its recommendation on the proposed level of resources for the period up to 31 October 1992 is based on technical considerations, largely reflecting the delay in the emplacement of UNTAC personnel and will not affect the implementation of the operation. We expect that the Secretary-General will ensure that UNTAC is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy, taking into account the observations of ACABQ on the possible areas of savings and on improving the financial accountability of the operations.

The report of ACABQ includes a number of important remarks, for instance those concerning the acceptance and use of voluntary contributions, cost-effective recruitment of civilian personnel, and the effective use of the start-up funds of $200 million appropriated in General Assembly resolution 46/222. We also endorse the comments of the Advisory Committee on the phased presentation and appropriation of the UNTAC budget to cover additional requirements, as stated in paragraphs 10, 11 and 78 of its report (A/46/916). We trust that the Secretary-General will duly take into account these remarks in implementing the plan of UNTAC.

We have a particularly keen interest in using the $200 million for the initial activities required for the timely deployment of UNTAC, taking into account the specific conditions and needs of the operation. The appropriation of this amount represents an innovative approach to securing sizeable

(Mr. Sezaki, Japan)

resources to meet the start-up costs of a peace-keeping operation even before the formal establishment of the operation by the Security Council.

My delegation looks forward to receiving the report of the Secretary-General which ACABQ requested on the implementation of paragraph 11 of its report (A/46/874). That report will be of help in evaluating the effectiveness of such an innovative approach and at the same time increase the accountability of the Organization to Member States with respect to the financial management of peace-keeping operations.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): As I mentioned earlier, the United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia has been absorbed into the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia.

May I therefore take it that the Assembly wishes to delete item 125, entitled "Financing of the United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia", from the preliminary list of items to be included in the provisional agenda of the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly?

Unless I hear any objection, it will be so decided.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 148.

The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.